

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 23441

E.O. 11652 DGS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJ: OIL COMMITTEE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP CONSIDERATION OF
LIBYAN OIL SITUATION

REF: STATE 175845

ROME FOR BENNSKY

1. SUBSTANCE REFTEL TRANSMITTED TO SECRETARIAT AND IN
VIEW OF US POSITION INVITATION WILL NOT, REPEAT NO, BE
EXTENDED TO OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES. SECRETARIAT
INFORMS US ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF HLG FAVOR INVITATION,
WITH UK STRONGLY IN FAVOR AND FRENCH IN FAVOR IF
INVITATION KEPT SECRET. WE ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION
DIRECTLY WITH SECGEN, WHO, WHILE ACCEPTING US WISHES,
INDICATED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT.

2. MISSION SEES SOMEDANGER THAT IF COMPANY REPS WERE
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TO ATTEND THIS MEETING OF HLG, AND THEIR ATTENDANCE

BECAME KNOWN, THERE MIGHT BE SOME UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES IN VIEW OF RECENT PUBLICITY. WE REFER IN PARTICULAR TO SEPTEMBER 4 REUTER'S DESPATCH WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) PARIS--TOP OIL EXPERTS FROM THE MAJOR WESTERN INDUSTRIAL POWERS AND JAPAN MEET HERE NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON LIBYA'S TAKE-OVER OF CONTROLLING INTERESTS IN ALL FOREIGN COMPANIES OPERATING ON ITS TERRITORY, FRENCH OFFICIALS SAID TODAY, THE RESTRICTED HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF THE 24-NATION ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S OIL COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A ONE-DAY EMERGENCY MEETING ON TUESDAY, THEY SAID.

THE EXPERTS--SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND FUEL SUPPLIES -- ARE EXPECTED TO REVIEW THE WHOLE SITUATION IN THE OIL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES FOLLOWING LIBYA'S DECISION TO NATIONALISE 51 PERCENT OF SIX OF THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES OPERATING THERE AND DOUBLING THE PRICE OF CRUDE OIL.

THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP, "WATCH-DOG" OF THE OECD'S FULL OIL COMMITTEE, WILL MEET UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF M.L.G. WANSINK, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ENERGY IN THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

IN ADDITION TO HOLLAND, THE GROUP COMPRISES THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, NORWAY, CANADA AND JAPAN.

THE OIL COMMITTEE WAS SET UP BY THE OECD'S EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES SHORTLY AFTER THE 1956 SUEZ CANAL CONFLICT TO ENSURE THAT EACH COUNTRY HAD A MINIMUM OF 90 DAYS OF OIL SUPPLIES.

THIS PROVISION IS NOW BEING EXTENDED TO JAPAN, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP AND THE OIL COMMITTEE ARE EXPECTED TO HOLD THEIR NEXT REGULAR MEETINGS ON SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20. (END UNCLASSIFIED).

ROGERS

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